Retrieving of valuable historical documents from foreign Governments

*140. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of original valuable documents of Indian history are still in the possession of several Foreign Governments;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government so far to retrieve those documents and what is the present position with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These documents are lying in a number of foreign countries with past Indian associations. Lists containing details of these documents in each country are not in existence.

(c) The National Archives of India, as a part of its project to acquire microfilm copies of records of Indian interest from foreign countries under bilateral programmes and through purchase, has so far acquired 6785 rolls of microfilm.

Import of Palm Oil

804. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of production of Palm oil in the country at present;

(b) what is the quantum of palm oil imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) what is the amount of foreign-exchange involved in its import during the same period, year-wise:

(d) what steps Government are taking to step up its production with a view to attain self-sufficiency; and

(e) what is the contribution made by the agricultural scientists in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The cost of production of Palm Oil of Oil Palm India Ltd., one of the two commercial plantations in the country is estimated at Rs. 12,040 per tonne in the year 1990-91.

(b) The financial year-wise quantum of imports of Edible Oil by STC during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is given as under:—

Financial Year	Quantum of Imports (Metric Tonnes)
1988-89	11,65,862
1989-90	2,95,437
1990-91	5,40,235

(c) The value of the imports during the years 1988-89 to 1990-91 is given as under:—

Financial Year	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1988-89	768.52
1989-90	162.47
1990-91	305.63

(d) An expert committee appointed by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has identified an area of 5.75 lakh ha. in nine States as being suitable for oil palm cultivation in the country. Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been appointed as the nodal agency for the development of oil palm in the country in December, 1990. Advance action has been initiated to establish oil palm seed gardens, seed nurseries, frontline demonstrations and demonstration processing